

HOUSE BILL 4095

By Coley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, relative to civic education programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 15, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-1506.

(a)

(1) The department of education shall establish, administer and monitor a grant for eligible non-profit organizations providing civic education programs. The department shall award the grant to the most qualified organization. The total amount of such grant shall not exceed ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000).

(2) The purpose of the civic education programs shall be to increase elementary and secondary students' knowledge and understanding of the workings and functioning of government at the national, state and local levels and to foster responsible citizenship and life-long participation in community activities, planning and decision-making, and in national, state and local government.

(3) The civic education programs shall:

(A) Provide education, instruction, tutoring and mentoring in civic education;

(B) Foster research, organizational, analytical, communication, both written and oral, planning and problem-solving skills and critical

thinking by examining current civic issues and their concomitant solutions at levels appropriate to the students served;

(C) Provide opportunities for students to gain confidence in public speaking and persuasion and in decision-making through participation in simulated town hall meetings and congressional hearings and in mock courts throughout the state; and

(D) Encourage and provide opportunities, as appropriate, for students to participate in the functioning of their communities.

(b) In accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of education and on the recommendation of the commissioner of education, the grant shall be awarded to a not-for-profit organization that provides, or proposes to provide, school civic education programs meeting the requirements of this section.

(c) The state board of education, on the recommendation of the commissioner of education, is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this section. All rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.